

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the collapsible or deformable portion comprises a fluted or corrugated portion.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the container is relatively enlarged at the first end.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the second end of the container comprises a closed end.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ wherein the second end is closed by a vapor ~~vapour~~ permeable means.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the collapsible or deformable portion is produced from a relatively rigid material.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one the preceding claims~~ comprising a first portion and a second portion joined together to form the container.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ for use in sterilizing an endoscopic telescope comprising an elongated part for

receiving a barrel of an endoscopic telescope and an enlarged part depending from the elongated part.

Claim 19 has been amended as follows:

19. (amended) A container as claimed in ~~claim 17 or~~ claim 18 comprising a first part and a second, elongated part joined to the first part, the first part being of relatively enlarged diameter with respect to the elongated part.

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

22. (amended) A container as claimed in ~~claim 20 or~~ claim 21 wherein the first part has an open end in the outwardly extending part through which a barrel of an endoscopic telescope can pass and a large opening in the enlarged diameter portion.

Claim 26 has been amended as follows:

26. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 23 ~~any one of claims 23 to 25~~ wherein the container is provided with a closure means.

Claim 28 has been amended as follows:

28. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 23 ~~any one of claims 23 to 26~~ wherein the container has a vapor ~~vapour~~ permeable portion.

Claim 29 has been amended as follows:

29. (amended) A container as claimed in claim ~~26 or~~ 27 wherein the closure means includes a vapor ~~vapour~~ permeable portion.

Claim 30 has been amended as follows:

30. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 23 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ further comprising a sheet-like material adapted to drape over the object upon removal of the object.

Claim 33 has been amended as follows:

33. (amended) A container as claimed in claim 32~~any one of claims 30 to 32~~ wherein the sheet-like material is a sheet of gauze or other medical fabric.

Claim 36 has been cancelled.

Claim 37 has been amended as follows:

37. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 35 ~~or claim 36~~ wherein the object is removed from the container by collapsing or deforming the collapsible or deformable portion to thereby reduce an inner volume of the container and force the object to break open the vapor~~vapour~~ permeable closure and extend at least partly out of the container.

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Jo Ann Kuczynski 11-13-01
Jo Ann Kuczynski Date